

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119239
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:KLWAUCHOPE:JJ
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-----250956Z 034661 /14

R 241421Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
MARSCTYGDBN ALEX VA

UNCLAS STATE 119239

FOR ESCHENFELDER FROM WAUCHOPE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MSGDET, ASMARA

REF: NAIROBI 6313

1. I AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE M.U.C. FOR THE DETACH-
MENT IS GOING FORWARD. ASSUME FROM REFTEL THAT SUFFICIENT
INFO PROVIDED TO PROCEED WITH NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FOR
SGT. VIERA.

2. RE SSGT WHITT, THERE ARE VARIOUS ACTIONS HE TOOK WHICH
EXEMPLIFIED PERFORMANCE AND LEADERSHIP WHICH EXCEEDS THAT
EXPECTED OF A MARINE OF HIS RANK AND AGE. FOR EXAMPLE:
ON APRIL 27 FROM 1100 TO 1700 HOURS, ADMIN OFFICER AND I
WERE AT ASMARA AIRPORT DIRECTING C-141 LOADING OPERATION.
DURING THIS PERIOD CRO WAS ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER, AND
WHITT WAS ACTING PSO. SHORTLY BEFORE 1300 HOURS FOUR
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ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS DEMANDED ENTRANCE TO CONGEN COMPOUND TO
CONDUCT "INSPECTION". IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREED PROCEDURE,
CRO WAS LOCKED IN VAULT TO INITIATE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION
OF CRYPTO EQUIPMENT IF REQUIRED. SSGT WHITT WAS THEN ALONE
TO FACE THESE ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS AND PREVENT THEM FROM
VIOLATING THE CONGEN'S IMMUNITY FROM SEARCH. WITH TACT AND
FIRMNESS HE CONVINCED THEM THAT THEY COULD NOT "INSPECT"

CONGEN IN MY ABSENCE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAD SCORES OF ETHIOPIAN TROOPS AT THEIR IMMEDIATE CALL, THESE OFFICERS WERE QUICKLY CONVINCED THAT THIS MARINE WAS DETERMINED TO PRESERVE THE SANCTITY OF THE CONGEN PREMISES, WITHFORCE IF REQUIRED, AND THEY WITHDREW. BY THIS ACTION, SSGT WHITT SAFEGUARDED THE CONGEN'S CRYPTO EQUIPMENT FROM DETECTION AND THEREBY POSSIBLE COMPROMISE.

3. A FURTHER EXAMPLE WAS HIS CONDUCT OF A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE CONGEN OFFICES TO ASSURE THAT NO MATERIAL WOULD BE LEFT BEHIND WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE CONTACTS OF THE CONGEN OR BE USED BY A HOSTILE GOVERNMENT TO ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE THE CONGEN IN IMPROPER ACTIVITIES. I HAD INSTRUCTED HIM IN OUTLINE WHAT WAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED, BUT WAS UNABLE TO SUPERVISE THE SEARCH AS I WAS OCCUPIED BY OTHER DUTIES. SSGT TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO CONDUCT THIS SEARCH AND COMPLETED IT WITH THOROUGHNESS AND DISPATCH. WHILE THE HOST GOVERNMENT HAS DISPLAYED A TENDENCY TO CONCOCT INCIDENTS WHICH WOULD BE TO THE EMBARRASSMENT OR DISCREDIT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, TO DATE THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO DO SO WITH ANY INFORMATION THEY MAY HAVE TAKEN FROM THE CONGEN.

4. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL PROVE ADEQUATE TO SEND FORWARD RECOMMENDATION FOR SSGT WHITT FOR NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL. IF FURTHER INFO REQUIRED, I AM PREPARED TO FURNISH IT. VANCE

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